Raising rate of royalty on crude oil

67. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is considering to raise the royalty rates on crude oil from Rs. 192/- to Rs. 340/- per m.t., if so, what are the parameters in fixing the revised rates;

(b) whether revi ion undertaken as a result of the report of Secretary level Committee and if so, the details thereof;

(c) what was the total amount paid as royalty to Gujarat for three years w.e.f. 1st April, 1984 and the amount payable for two years w.e.f. 1st April, 1987; and

(d) whether any State has imposed a Rural Development Cess on the production of oil and minerals, if so, whether the same is being considered while paying the royalty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Review of the present rate of royalty of Rs. 192 per metric tonne payable on production of crude oil will take into account all relevant factors such as the provisions of the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, the need to provide reasonable revenue to the States where oil is produced, the extent to which it would add to the prices of petroleum products views of the concerned State Governments, etc.

(c) The amount of royalty paid in the years 1984-85 to 1988-89 by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission to the Government of Gujarat for production of crude oil is as under :—

Years	Rs./crores
1984-85	23·66
1985-86	132·70
1986-87	85·90
1987-88	94·43
1988-89	101.20 (provisional)

(d) Governments of Gujarat and Assam have enacted laws for levy of Rural Development Cess on the land linked to the value of mineral oil produced from that land. Oil and Natural Gas Commission/ Oil India Limited have challenged the laws in the Supreme Court.

Perspective Plan for Gas utilisation in Gujarat

68. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact taht Government of Gujarat have submitted a perspective plan for gas utilisation; if so, whether the same has been scrutinised and approved by this Ministry;

(b) what is the total availability of gas from different fields, existing and prposed, and what are the projects indicated in the gas use plan by the State Government; and

(c) what is the quantity of gas committed to various projects in Gujarat and how much would be left surplus after allocation for these projectes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) The Government of Gujarat have

submitted a perspective plan envisaging utilisation of about 22 MMCMD of natural gas for various projects mainly in the Power Sector.

Bearing in mind the availability of gas in the Gujarat Region, commitments of about 8·20 MMCMD have already been made for various projects in the State. The commitments have been made taking into account additional availability from the Gandhar Phase-I Project and from Offshore fields. Additional commitments can be made dependig upon the availability of gas in future and its optimum use pattern.

Shifting of Tapti off-shore Gas land-fall point from Pipavay in Saurashtra

69. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to shift the Tapti offshore gas land-fall point from Pipavay in Saurashtra; if so, what are the reasons therefor and whether the same is proposed to be linked with HBJ pipeline and if so, for what purpose;

(b) whether adequate gas has been committed to the proposed gas-based power station at Pipavay and if so, what is the total quantity of gas so committed; and

(c) whether Government of Gujarat has represented to the Ministry against the proposed shift of the land-fall point and if so, what is the reaction of Union Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) The location of the land-fall point would be decided when the Tapti offshore gas field project is fully approved by the Government.

Reconstitution of Telephone Advisory Committee of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Bombay

70. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the term of the Telephone Advisory Committee of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Bombay has expired;

(b) if so, by when the Nigam proposes to re-constitute this committee; and

(c) whether representation will be given on this committee to the cross sections of the subscribers representing various interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes, Sir. The present term of Bombay Telephone Advisory Committee has expired on 28-2-1989.

(b) Action to reconstitute new Telephone Advisory Committee has already been initiated.

(c) Yes, Sir

Remote Line Unit in Eastern Suburbs of Bombay

71. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at some places in the Eastern Suburbs of Bombay the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Bombay proposes to install R.L.U. (Remote Line Unit) to give new telephone lines to long wait-listed telephone applicants; and